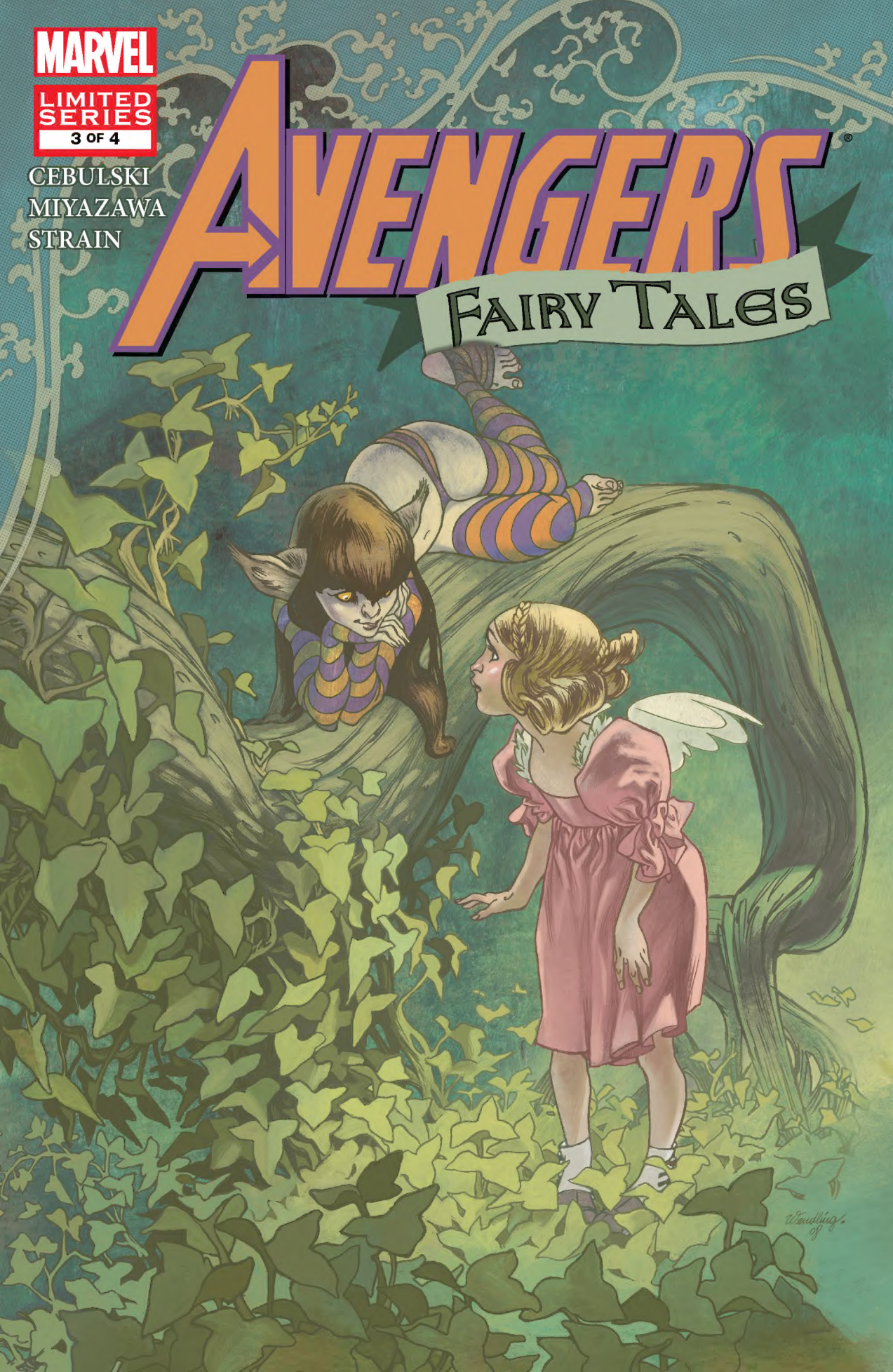
MARVEL
LIMITED SERIES
3 OF 4
CEBULSKI
MIYAZAWA
STRAIN
AVENGERS
FAIRY TALES

Avengers Fairy Tales

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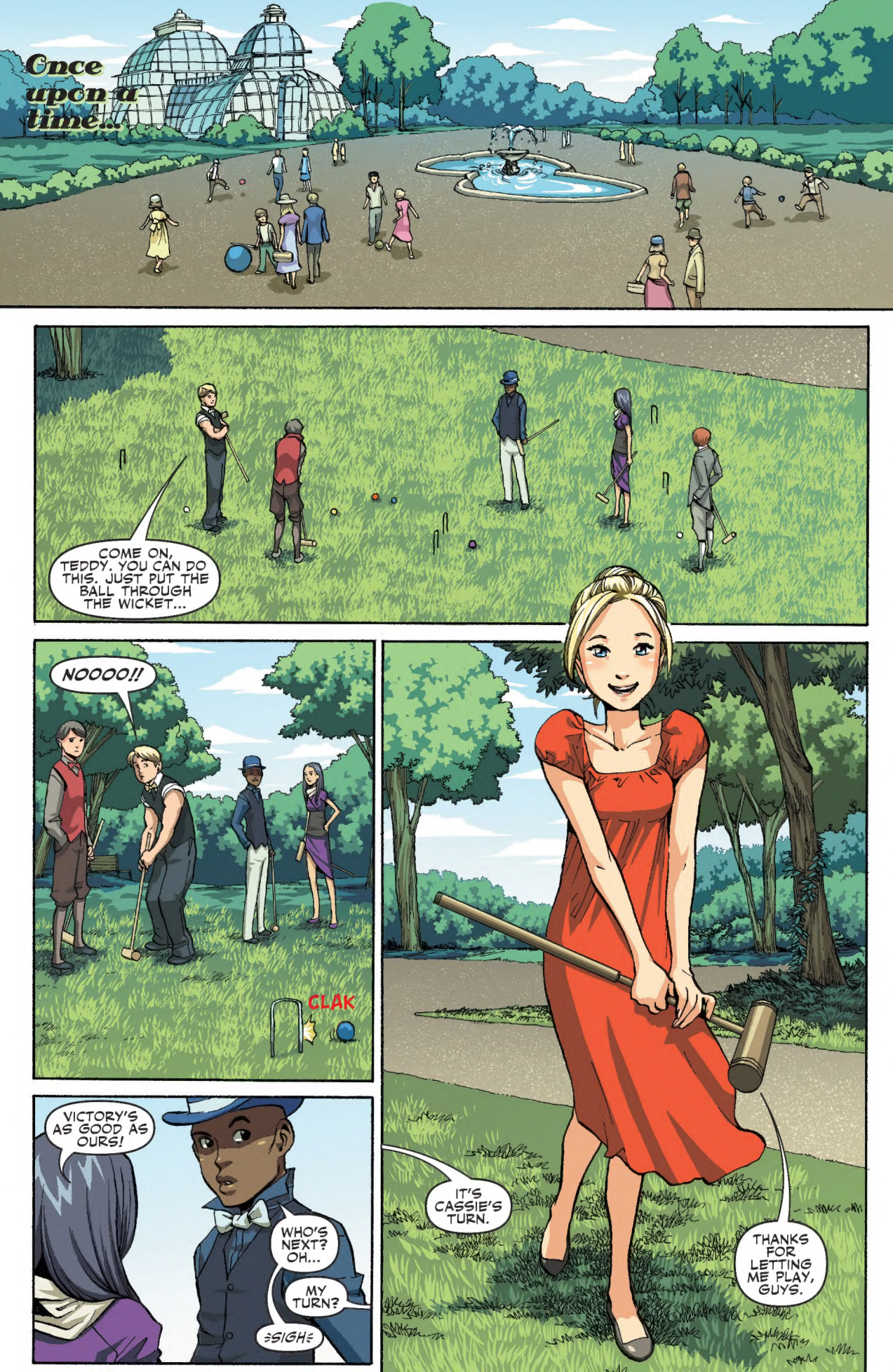
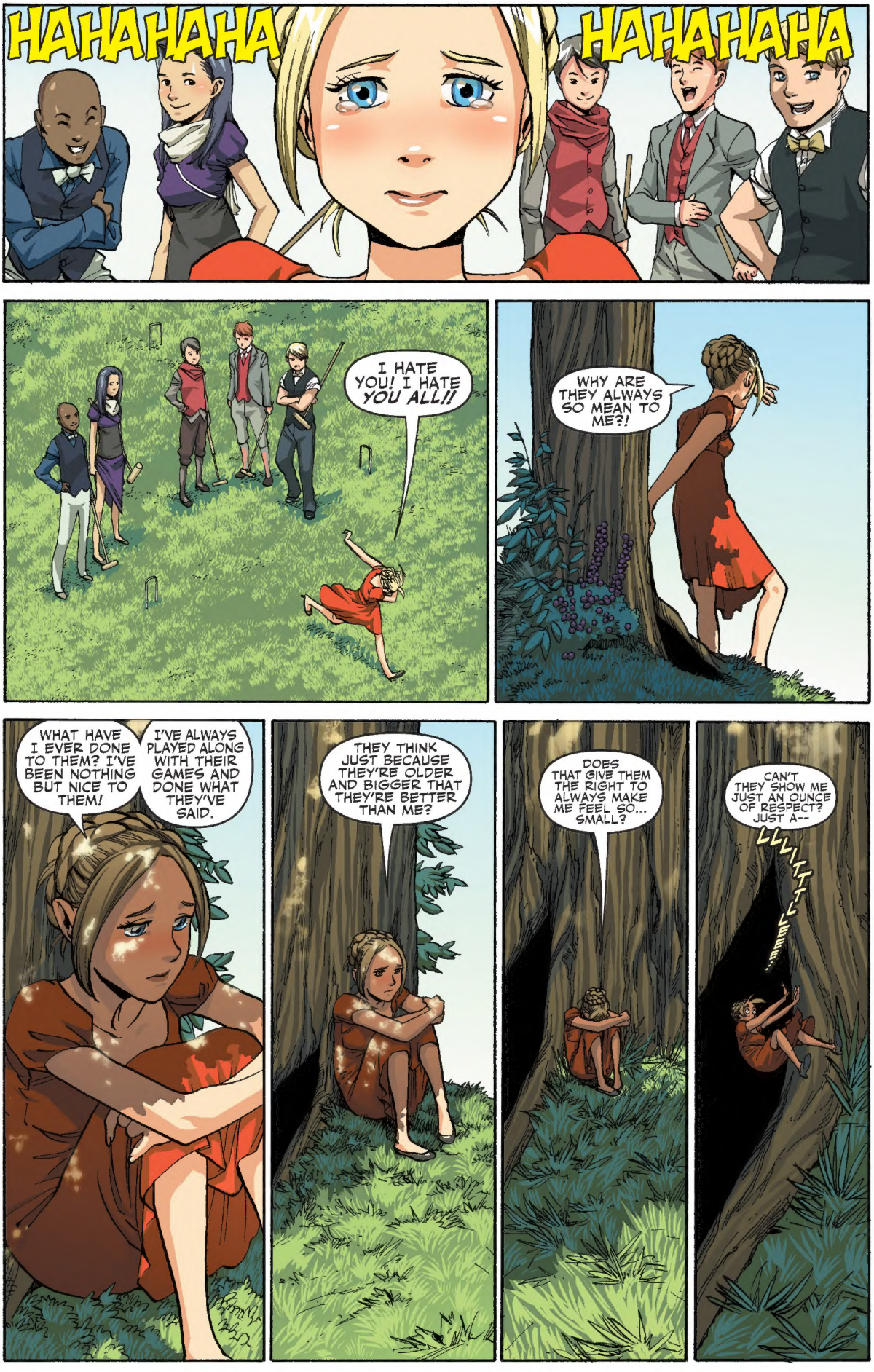
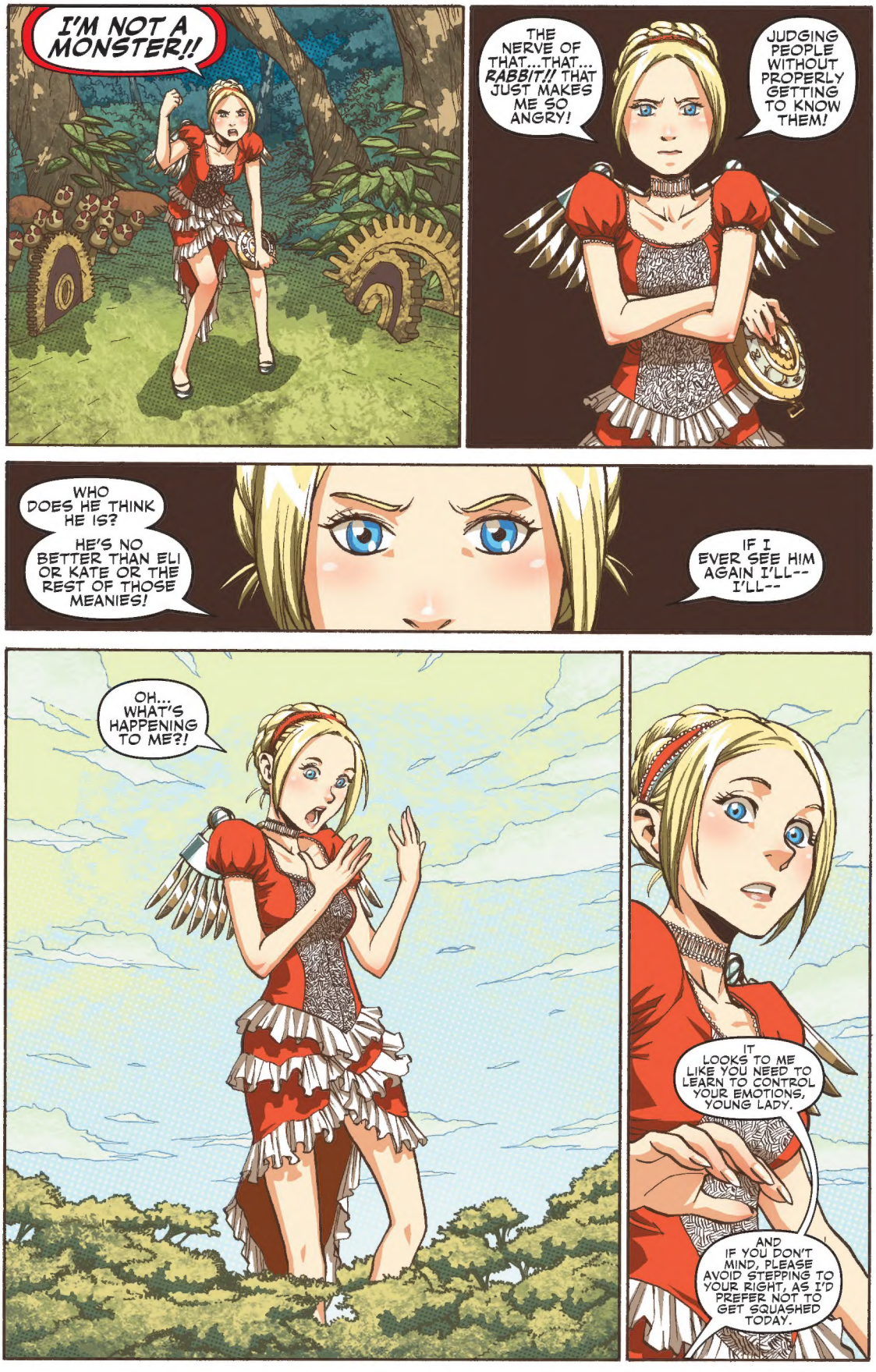

Once upon a time...
COME ON, TEDDY. YOU CAN DO THIS. JUST PUT THE BALL THROUGH THE WICKET...
NOOOO!!
CLAK
VICTORY'S AS GOOD AS OURS!
WHO'S NEXT? OH...
MY TURN?
=SIGH=
IT'S CASSIE'S TURN.
THANKS FOR LETTING ME PLAY, GUYS.

KATE, REMIND ME, WHY DO WE LET THE NEW GIRL PLAY-- BECAUSE HER DAD DIED?
WELL, BOO-HOO FOR HER, ELI. I FEEL MORE SORRY FOR US HAVING TO HANG OUT WITH A CHILD LIKE HER!
LET'S JUST HUMOR HER FOR NOW.
OH, IF IT'S HUMOR YOU WANT...
...I'M HAPPY TO OBLIGE!
YOU NEVER FAIL TO ENTERTAIN.
BWUMP
THWAK
MRREEOWW!!


HAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHA
I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU ALL!!
WHY ARE THEY ALWAYS SO MEAN TO ME?!
WHAT HAVE I EVER DONE TO THEM? I'VE BEEN NOTHING BUT NICE TO THEM!
I'VE ALWAYS PLAYED ALONG WITH THEIR GAMES AND DONE WHAT THEY'VE SAID.
THEY THINK JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE OLDER AND BIGGER THAT THEY'RE BETTER THAN ME?
DOES THAT GIVE THEM THE RIGHT TO ALWAYS MAKE ME FEEL SO... SMALL?
CAN'T THEY SHOW ME JUST AN OUNCE OF RESPECT? JUST A--
LLLITTLEEE...

HHIIYYYAAAHH!
WHUMP
WHA...WHAT HAPPENED?!
WHERE AM I?
I'M LATE! I'M LATE!
WHO--?!
I'M LATE! I'M LATE! I'M--

--OH.
HELLO.
A GIANT!
WHAT? NO, WAIT!! PLEASE.
DON'T BE SCARED. NOT OF ME...
PLEASE. I'M ALL ALONE AND NEED HELP.
I NEED A FRIEND.
A MONSTER! A SIZE-CHANGING MONSTER!
STOP... COME BACK! PLEASE!!
YOU FORGOT YOUR WATCH...
BEWARE! THE KING'S SENT A MONSTER TO CAPTURE US!!

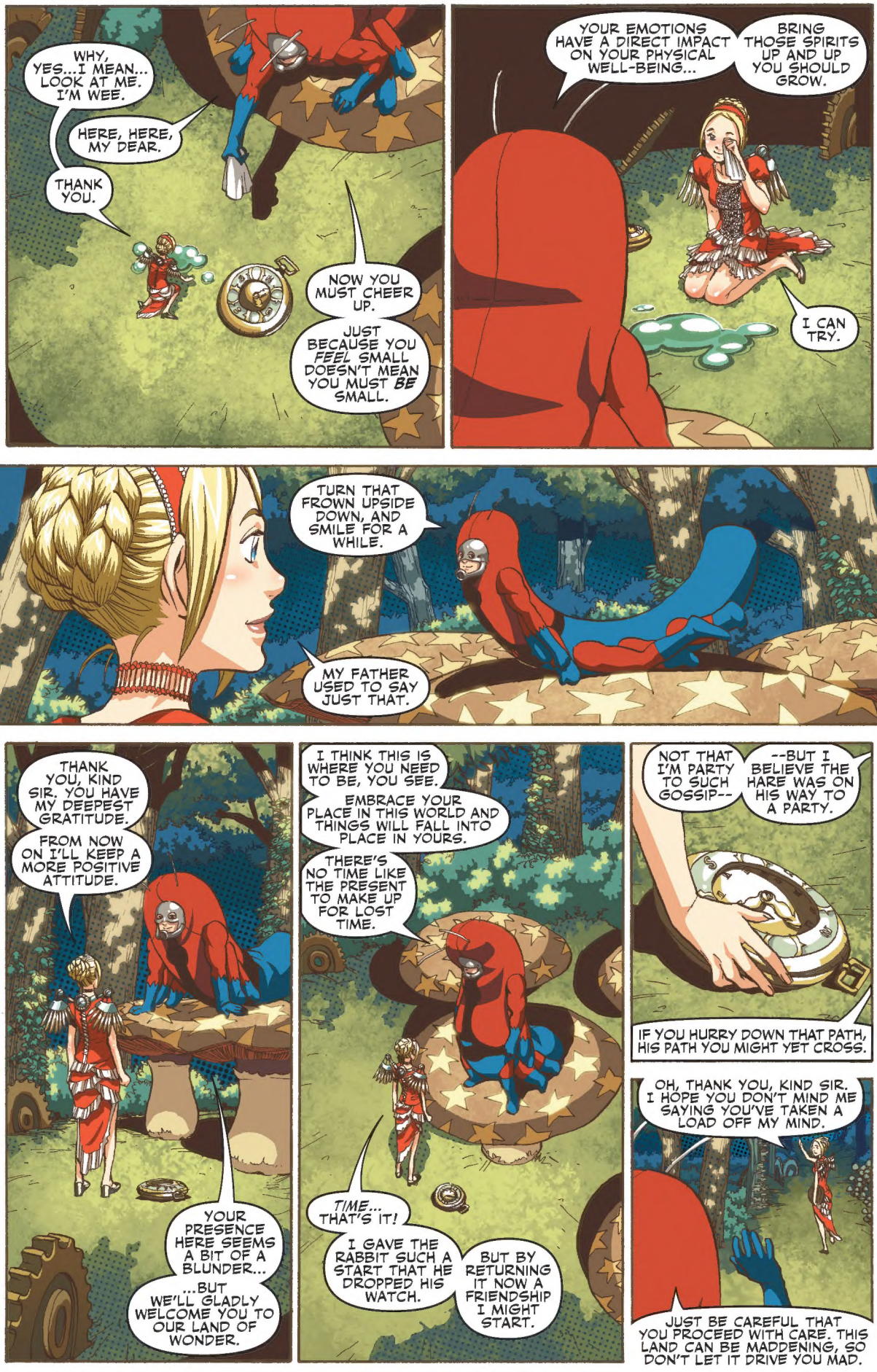

I'M NOT A MONSTER!!
THE NERVE OF THAT...THAT... RABBIT!! THAT JUST MAKES ME SO ANGRY!
JUDGING PEOPLE WITHOUT PROPERLY GETTING TO KNOW THEM!
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?
HE'S NO BETTER THAN ELI OR KATE OR THE REST OF THOSE MEANIES!
IF I EVER SEE HIM AGAIN I'LL-- I'LL--
OH... WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!
IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU NEED TO LEARN TO CONTROL YOUR EMOTIONS, YOUNG LADY.
AND IF YOU DON'T MIND, PLEASE AVOID STEPPING TO YOUR RIGHT, AS I'D PREFER NOT TO GET SQUASHED TODAY.

OH... OH MY! PARDON ME, KIND SIR... I MEAN... IF YOU ARE A SIR, THAT IS.
I'M A SIR, FOR CERTAIN.
UNLESS THERE'S SOMETHING AMISS, MISS?

I HAD A FEELING, BUT IT'S PASSED...
YOU JUST REMINDED ME OF SOMEONE FROM MY PAST.
OH, IS THAT SO? WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
I HOPE IT'S SOMEONE YOU LOVE, MY LOVE.

YES, I LOVED MY FATHER MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF, BUT HE'S DIED AND LEFT ME ALL BY MYSELF.
I'M SO SORRY TO HEAR IT. I'M SURE YOU LOVED YOUR FATHER DEARLY, MY DEAR.
I'M AT A LOSS FOR WORDS OVER YOUR LOSS.

I JUST FEEL SO EMPTY WITHOUT HIM. AND THE FACT I NEVER GOT TO SAY GOOD-BYE MAKES ME FEEL SO...
SMALL?


WHY, YES...I MEAN... LOOK AT ME. I'M WEE.
HERE, HERE, MY DEAR.
THANK YOU.
NOW YOU MUST CHEER UP.
JUST BECAUSE YOU *FEEL* SMALL DOESN'T MEAN YOU MUST *BE* SMALL.
YOUR EMOTIONS HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON YOUR PHYSICAL WELL-BEING...
BRING THOSE SPIRITS UP AND UP YOU SHOULD GROW.
I CAN TRY.
TURN THAT FROWN UPSIDE DOWN, AND SMILE FOR A WHILE.
MY FATHER USED TO SAY JUST THAT.
THANK YOU, KIND SIR. YOU HAVE MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE.
FROM NOW ON I'LL KEEP A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE.
YOUR PRESENCE HERE SEEMS A BIT OF A BLUNDER...
...BUT WE'LL GLADLY WELCOME YOU TO OUR LAND OF WONDER.
I THINK THIS IS WHERE YOU NEED TO BE, YOU SEE.
EMBRACE YOUR PLACE IN THIS WORLD AND THINGS WILL FALL INTO PLACE IN YOURS.
THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME.
TIME... THAT'S IT!
I GAVE THE RABBIT SUCH A START THAT HE DROPPED HIS WATCH.
BUT BY RETURNING IT NOW A FRIENDSHIP I MIGHT START.
NOT THAT I'M PARTY TO SUCH GOSSIP--
--BUT I BELIEVE THE HARE WAS ON HIS WAY TO A PARTY.
IF YOU HURRY DOWN THAT PATH, HIS PATH YOU MIGHT YET CROSS.
OH, THANK YOU, KIND SIR. I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME SAYING YOU'VE TAKEN A LOAD OFF MY MIND.
JUST BE CAREFUL THAT YOU PROCEED WITH CARE. THIS LAND CAN BE MADDENING, SO DON'T LET IT DRIVE YOU MAD.

HOW COULD IT HAVE GOTTEN SO DARK SO SUDDENLY?
IF THIS WATCH IS RIGHT, THE SUN SHOULD STILL BE HIGH UP IN THE SKY.
right can be wrong. up can be down.
WHO'S THERE?! SHOW YOURSELF!
oh, i'll *show* myself, but beware...
...nothing in wonderland is what it appears.

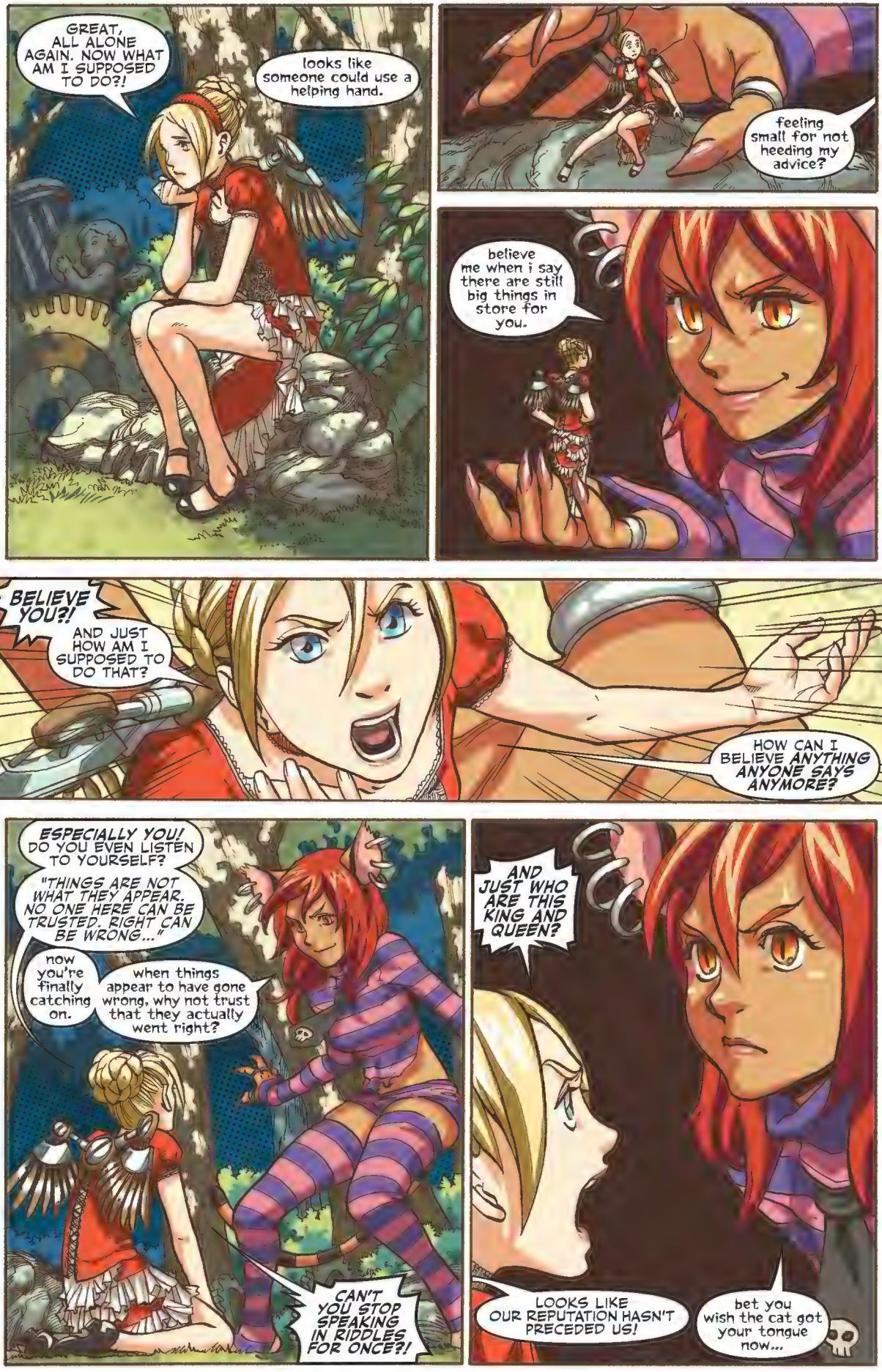
no one here can be trusted...
...including yourself.
IF I CAN'T TRUST MYSELF, THEN WHO CAN I TRUST?
i guess only time will tell.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
don't lose your head worrying about it.
the king and queen will be sure to take care of that when they find you.
WHO? THE KING AND QUEEN OF WHAT?!
OH, I REALLY DON'T LIKE IT HERE.

BUT I TOLD YOU, IT WASN'T MY FAULT I WAS LATE. MY WATCH WAS STOLEN!
VOICES?
YOU'D THINK A FAST TALKER LIKE YOURSELF COULD COME UP WITH A BETTER EXCUSE, RABBIT.
YOU GIVE HIM TOO MUCH CREDIT, HARE. HE MAY BE QUICK ON HIS FEET, BUT HIS MIND LAGS BEHIND.
WHY WON'T YOU BELIEVE ME?! BROTHER, PLEASE...
I'M SORRY, BUT RULES ARE RULES.
YOU MUST BE ON TIME FOR TEA! EVEN IF A GIANT GIRL DID STEAL YOUR WATCH...
NO EXCUSES. NO EXCUSES. NO EXCUSES.
UMM... PARDON ME.
IT'S HER! THE GIANT GIRL WHO STOLE MY WATCH!
GIANT?
YOU MEAN THIS WATCH? THE ONE YOU DROPPED?
WHICH I THEN TRIED TO RETURN TO YOU BEFORE YOU RAN OFF?!
WELL, YES...THAT'S IT! THE ONE THAT I... WELL...IT MAY HAVE SLIPPED THROUGH MY FINGERS...

HOW KIND OF YOU, MY DEAR, TO RETURN RABBIT'S LOST WATCH.
WON'T YOU PLEASE ALLOW US TO THANK YOU BY JOINING US FOR TEA?
THIS SHOULD BE FUN. WHY DON'T YOU STAY AS WELL, RABBIT?
SHE'S NO GIANT. SHE'S NO GIANT.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR *RULES*, HATTER?!
RULES WERE MADE TO BE BROKEN.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MISS...?
CASSIE. CASSIE LANG.
PRETTY NAME. PRETTY NAME.
I COULDN'T HAVE PUT IT BETTER MYSELF, CASSIE.
THERE YOU ARE NOW...
PRETTY GIRL. PRETTY GIRL.
OH, HUSH, DORMOUSE.
FWASH
=UMPH= =UMPH= =UMPH=
HAHAHAHA!
NOW THERE'S NO NEED TO BE MEAN! HOW IS HE SUPPOSED TO DRINK TEA?
OH, PLEASE LET HIM ENJOY THE PARTY WITH THE REST OF US!

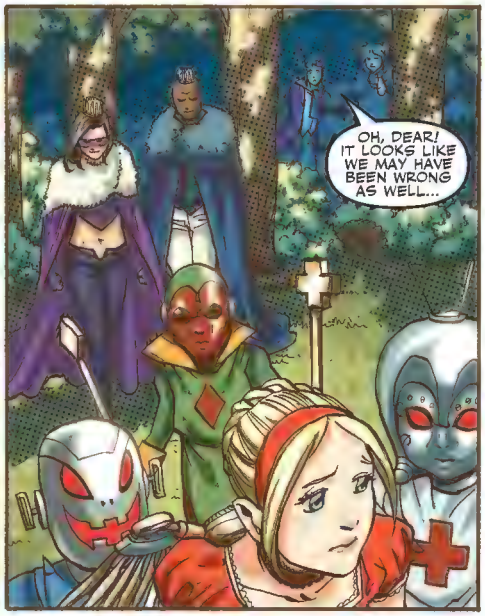
FALLEN FOR HIS FLATTERY, HAVE YOU? VERY WELL...
FWASH
=GASP=
BOOOO!
THANK YOU, SIR. NOW WE CAN ALL ENJOY OUR TEA IN PEACE AS WE GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER--
WHAT?!
SMASH
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU'RE ONE OF US?!
NOW CALM DOWN, HATTER. YOU KNOW YOU ALWAYS REGRET--
SHE'S A GIANT. SHE'S A GIANT.
I NEVER SAID I WAS!
I'M LOST AND CAME HERE LOOKING FOR FRIENDS...
...BUT I SEE NOW YOU MAY BE NO BETTER THAN THE "FRIENDS" I HAD BACK HOME.
ALL LIARS AND JOKERS AND BULLIES!

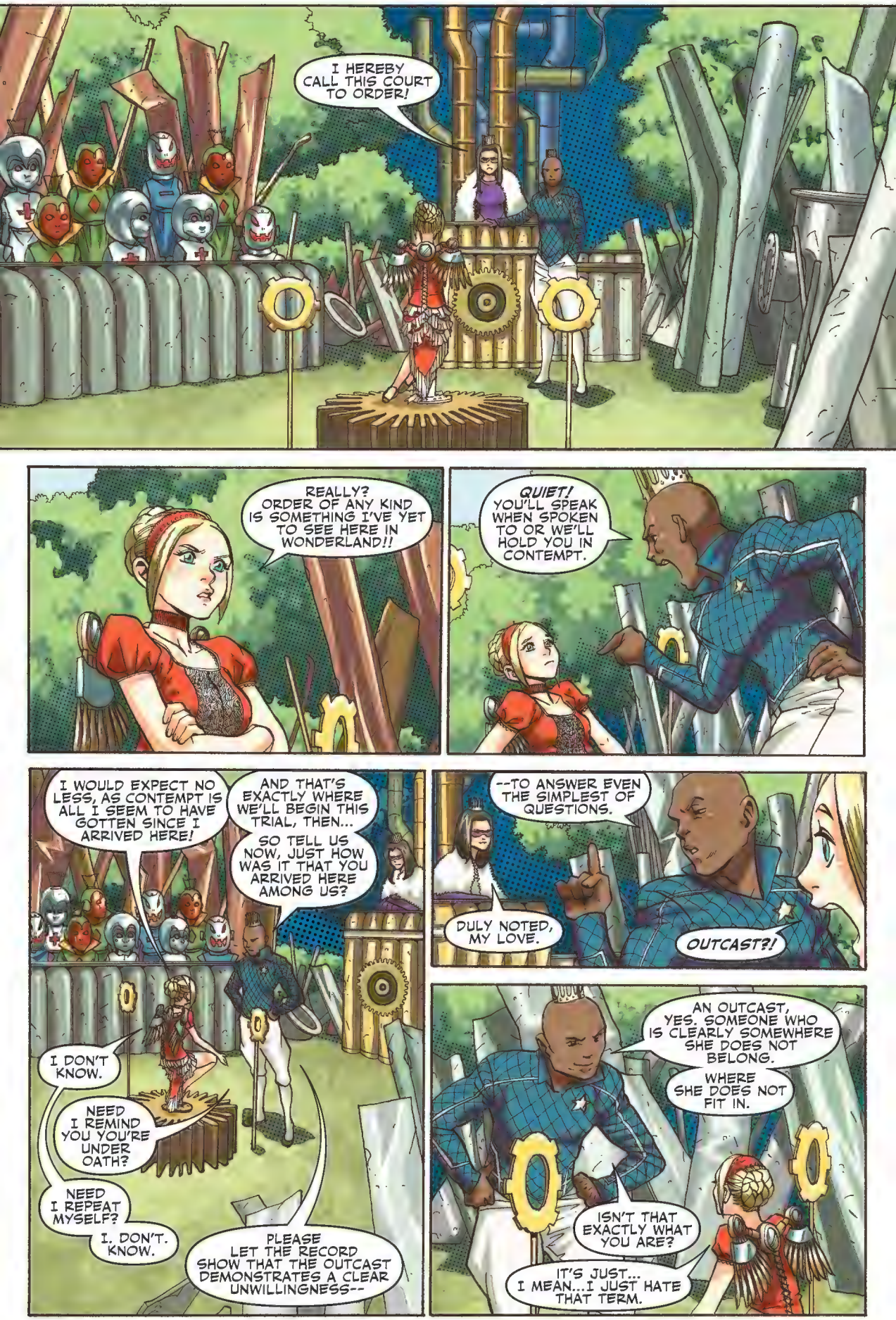
THE CAT WAS RIGHT...NO ONE HERE CAN BE TRUSTED. INCLUDING MYSELF.
I MEAN, LOOK AT HOW ANGRY I GOT. THAT'S QUITE UNLIKE ME.
NO, NO, IT'S ME WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR LOSING MY TEMPER, CASSIE.
IT'S JUST SOMETIMES I FORGET WHO, OR WHAT, I REALLY AM!
AND I WAS WRONG FOR FALSELY ACCUSING YOU OF STEALING MY WATCH.
I JUST GET SO AHEAD OF MYSELF SOMETIMES.
BUT YOU CAN TRUST ME. YOU CAN TRUST ME.
CAN I NOW, MY CUTE LITTLE MOUSE?
WILL YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE KING AND QUEEN OF THIS LAND?
THE KING AND QUEEN?!
KRRASSH
I'M SORRY. I'M SO SORRY.
YOU CALL US BULLIES? HOW DARE YOU MENTION THEIR NAMES TO US?!
BUT WAIT... I DIDN'T--
THEY SENT YOU HERE, DIDN'T THEY?! TO SPY ON US?!
WHO'S THE LIAR NOW? YOU'RE NO LONGER WELCOME HERE!
NO, I DON'T KNOW--
PLEASE DON'T GO. PLEASE DON'T GO.
YOU REALLY ARE ALL QUITE MAD, AREN'T YOU?
TELL THOSE TREACHEROUS TRAITORS TO STAY OUT OF OUR BUSINESS!
DON'T FORGET ME. DON'T FORGET ME.


GREAT, ALL ALONE AGAIN. NOW WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!
looks like someone could use a helping hand.
feeling small for not heeding my advice?
believe me when i say there are still big things in store for you.
BELIEVE YOU?!
AND JUST HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DO THAT?
HOW CAN I BELIEVE ANYTHING ANYONE SAYS ANYMORE?
ESPECIALLY YOU! DO YOU EVEN LISTEN TO YOURSELF?
"THINGS ARE NOT WHAT THEY APPEAR. NO ONE HERE CAN BE TRUSTED. RIGHT CAN BE WRONG..."
now you're finally catching on.
when things appear to have gone wrong, why not trust that they actually went right?
CAN'T YOU STOP SPEAKING IN RIDDLES FOR ONCE?!
AND JUST WHO ARE THIS KING AND QUEEN?
LOOKS LIKE OUR REPUTATION HASN'T PRECEDED US!
bet you wish the cat got your tongue now...

YOU KNOW HOW I HATE THAT, MY KING!
THEN WE ARE LEFT WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO SET MATTERS RIGHT, MY QUEEN!

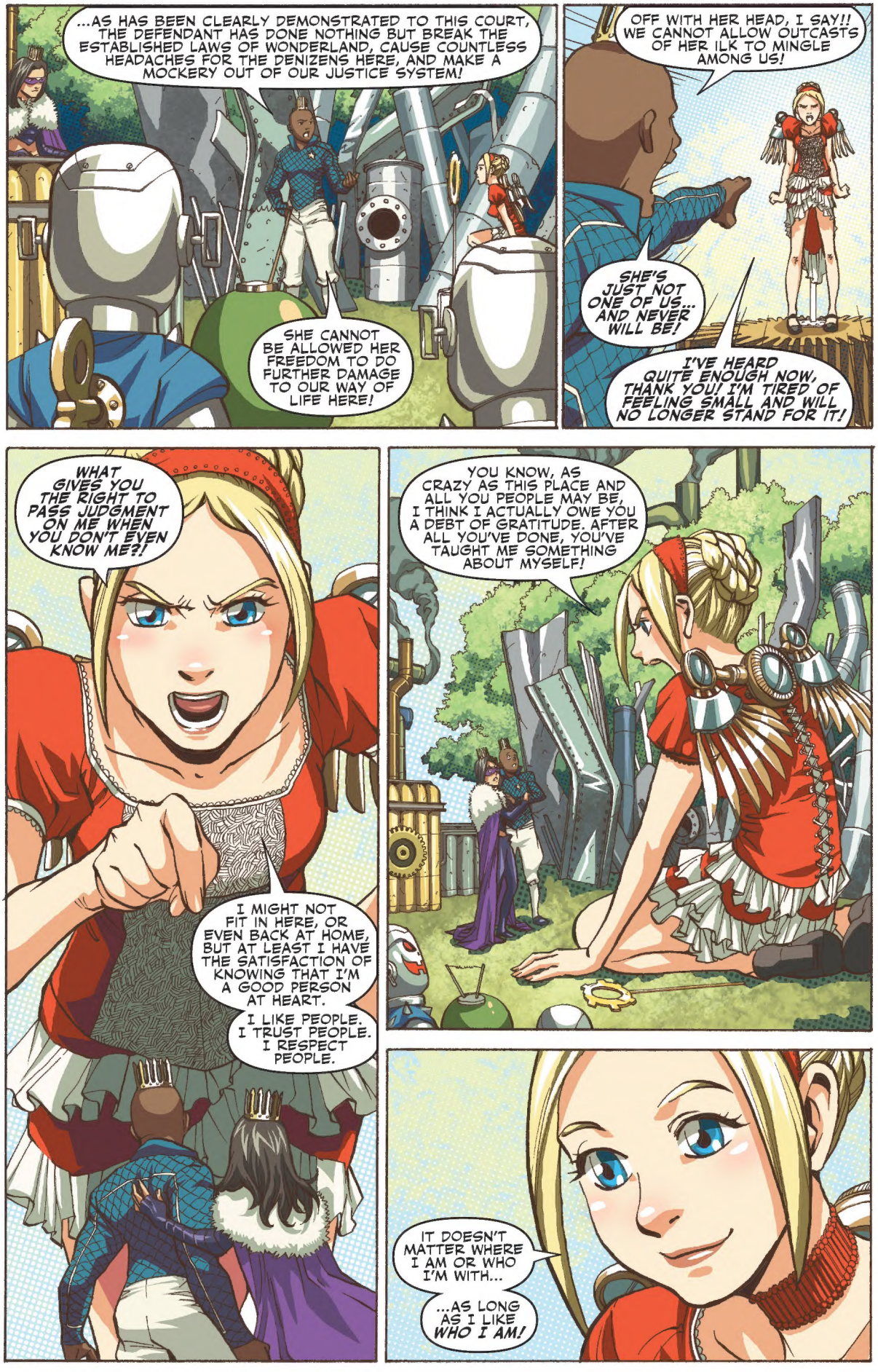
TAKE THE OUTSIDER INTO CUSTODY!
NO NEED TO BE PUSHY. I'LL COME QUIETLY...
IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE GOT ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO!

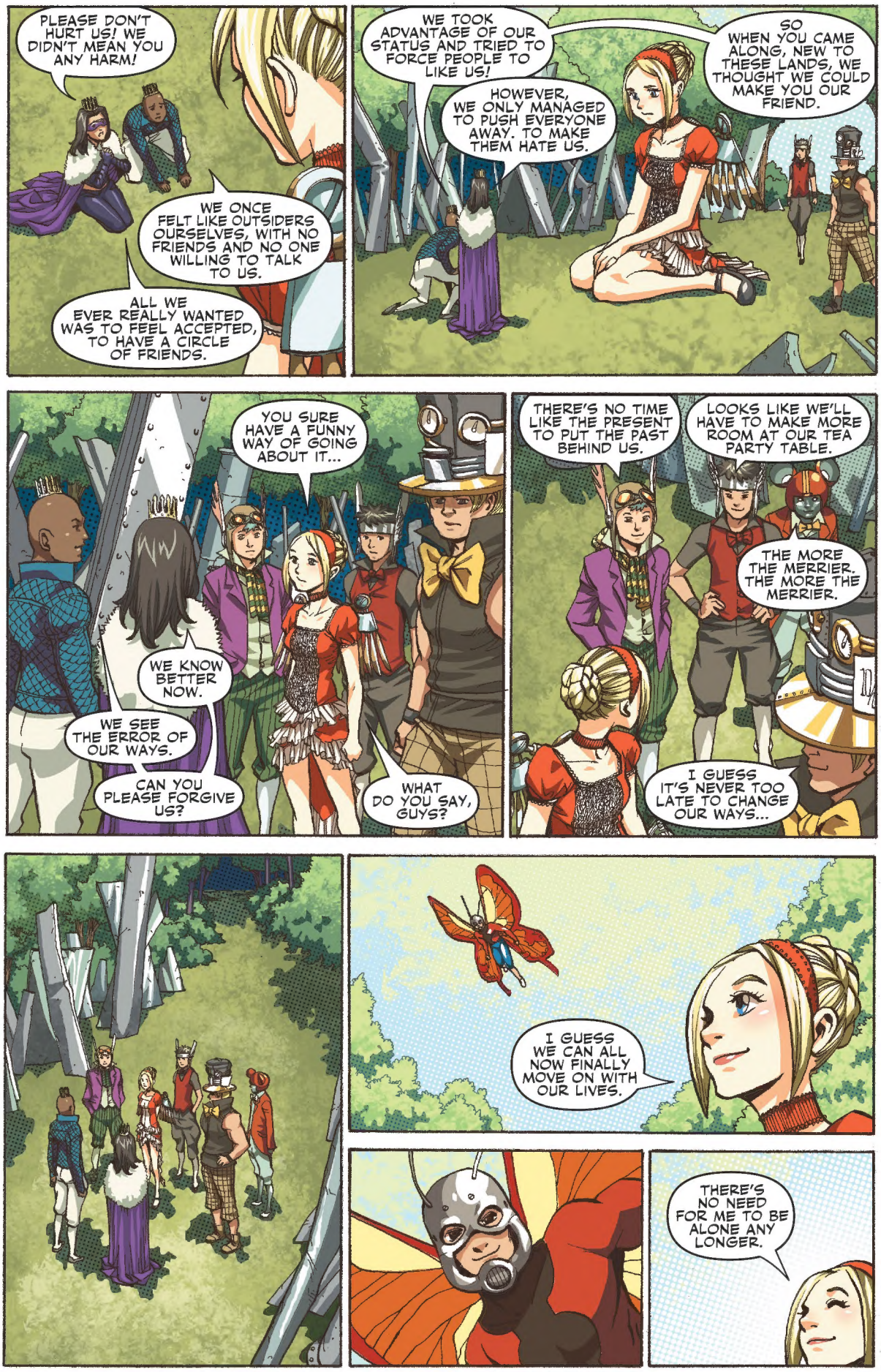

OH, DEAR! IT LOOKS LIKE WE MAY HAVE BEEN WRONG AS WELL...

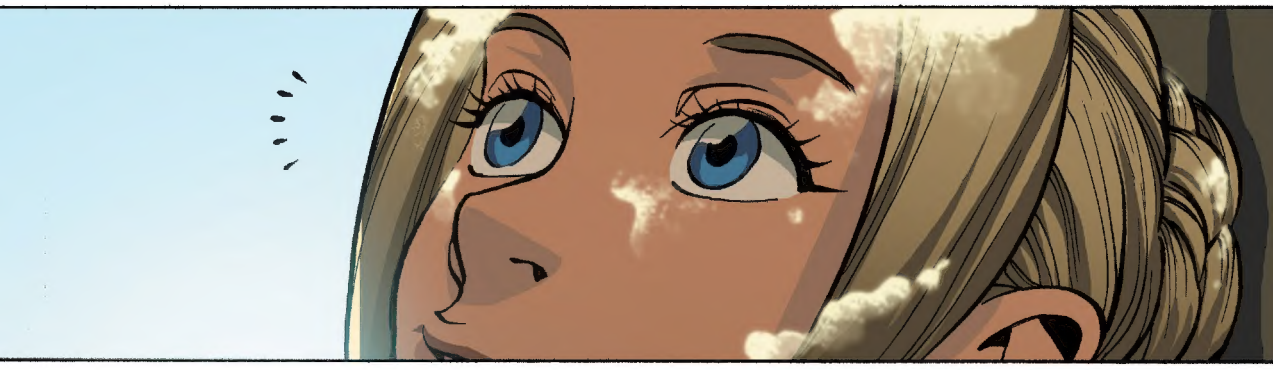

I HEREBY CALL THIS COURT TO ORDER!
REALLY? ORDER OF ANY KIND IS SOMETHING I'VE YET TO SEE HERE IN WONDERLAND!!
QUIET! YOU'LL SPEAK WHEN SPOKEN TO OR WE'LL HOLD YOU IN CONTEMPT.
I WOULD EXPECT NO LESS, AS CONTEMPT IS ALL I SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN SINCE I ARRIVED HERE!
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHERE WE'LL BEGIN THIS TRIAL, THEN...
SO TELL US NOW, JUST HOW WAS IT THAT YOU ARRIVED HERE AMONG US?
--TO ANSWER EVEN THE SIMPLEST OF QUESTIONS.
DULY NOTED, MY LOVE.
OUTCAST?!
I DON'T KNOW.
NEED I REMIND YOU YOU'RE UNDER OATH?
NEED I REPEAT MYSELF?
I. DON'T. KNOW.
PLEASE LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT THE OUTCAST DEMONSTRATES A CLEAR UNWILLINGNESS--
AN OUTCAST, YES. SOMEONE WHO IS CLEARLY SOMEWHERE SHE DOES NOT BELONG.
WHERE SHE DOES NOT FIT IN.
ISN'T THAT EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE?
IT'S JUST... I MEAN...I JUST HATE THAT TERM.

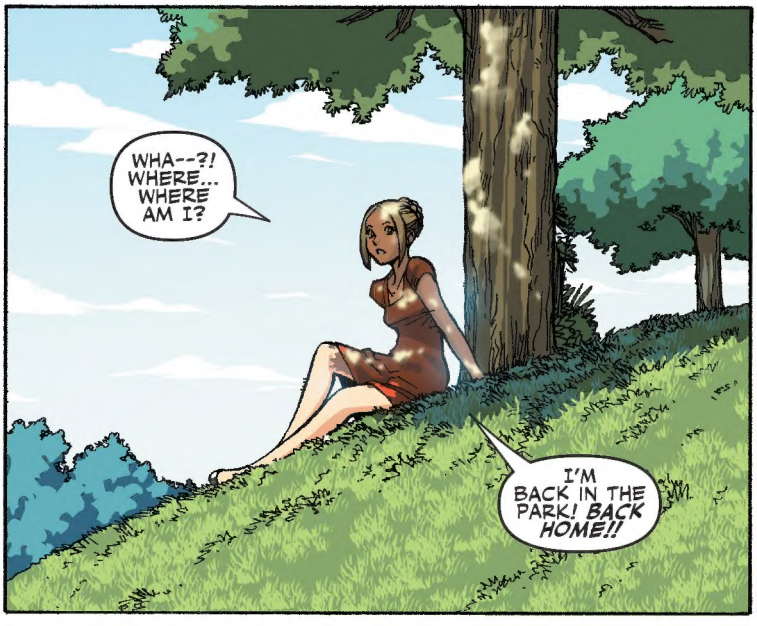
IF THE SHOE FITS, AS THEY SAY.
BUT IT DOESN'T. YOU SEE, I'VE BEEN ALL ALONE SINCE I GOT HERE. AND I DID MY BEST TO FIND PEOPLE...TO FIND FRIENDS.
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVEN'T TRIED TO FIT IN.
I DID.
SO ALL THE RUCKUS YOU CAUSED WAS ABOUT... FINDING FRIENDS? THAT'S YOUR DEFENSE?
YES, I GUESS... WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY.
I MEAN, WHEN I FIRST GOT HERE AND MET THE RABBIT--
AH-HA! THE PROSECUTION NOW CALLS OUR FIRST WITNESS...
...THE WHITE RABBIT!
TELL US THE TALE, RABBIT, OF HOW YOU CAME TO BE FOUND IN THE COMPANY OF THIS OUTSIDER!
WELL, YOU SEE, YOUR HIGHNESS... I WAS ON MY WAY TO TEA WHEN I BUMPED INTO HER AND SHE TOOK MY WATCH AND--
SHE STOLE YOUR WATCH?! SO SHE'S A THIEF AS WELL?!
A CRIME FOR WHICH SHE'LL NOW ALSO BE CHARGED!
BUT IT WAS AN HONEST MISTAKE, AND SHE EVENTUALLY RETURNED THE WATCH TO ME.
YOU ASK ME, I THINK YOU'RE BEING TOO QUICK TO JUDGE HER!
AND I KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT RUSHING INTO THINGS, SO--
OBJECTION! LEADING!
AGREED. I'D ADVISE YOU TO SLOW YOUR TONGUE, RABBIT--
--UNLESS YOU WISH TO FIND YOURSELF SPEEDING TOWARD THE GUILLOTINE.
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH FROM THIS ONE, MY LOVE. NEXT WITNESS!

...AND SHE BARGED IN WITHOUT AN INVITE!
SO THE OUTSIDER CALLOUSLY STROLLED ONTO YOUR PROPERTY, DISRUPTING YOUR TEA PARTY?! IT APPEARS SHE'S ALSO GUILTY OF TRESPASSING!
TO AN EXTENT, YES. BUT YOU KNOW HOW SOMETIMES THINGS AREN'T QUITE WHAT THEY APPEAR TO BE...
SHE WAS A LITTLE POSH FOR MY TASTES, BUT WE DID INVITE HER TO JOIN US, SO SHE COULD TECHNICALLY BE CONSIDERED AN INSIDER AT THAT POINT--
BUT DID YOU BEFRIEND HER?
NO, SIR. HER ATTITUDE UPSET THE HATTER AND--
THAT WILL BE MORE THAN ENOUGH. NEXT WITNESS!
...SO SHE TURNED YOUR KINDNESS AGAINST YOU AND PROVOKED YOU INTO A FIT OF RAGE?
A CLEAR CASE OF INFLICTING SEVERE EMOTIONAL DISTRESS, YOUR HONOR!
YES, ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME.
IT'S NOT NORMALLY IN MY NATURE TO GET ANGRY LIKE THAT.
TRUTH BE TOLD, I THINK I WAS JEALOUS.
JEALOUS OF WHO? *HER?!*
YES, OF HER. SHE SEEMS SO STRONG, SO CONFIDENT. SHE KNOWS WHO SHE IS AND I ADMIRE THAT--
OBJECTION! CALLS FOR SPECULATION!
NEXT WITNESS!
I THINK I'M IN LOVE. I THINK I'M IN LOVE.
OBJECTION!
ANY FURTHER WITNESSES, MY KING?
NONE WHOM WE CARE TO PRESENT. LET'S MOVE TO CLOSING ARGUMENTS.


...AS HAS BEEN CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED TO THIS COURT, THE DEFENDANT HAS DONE NOTHING BUT BREAK THE ESTABLISHED LAWS OF WONDERLAND, CAUSE COUNTLESS HEADACHES FOR THE DENIZENS HERE, AND MAKE A MOCKERY OUT OF OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM!
SHE CANNOT BE ALLOWED HER FREEDOM TO DO FURTHER DAMAGE TO OUR WAY OF LIFE HERE!
OFF WITH HER HEAD, I SAY!! WE CANNOT ALLOW OUTCASTS OF HER ILK TO MINGLE AMONG US!
SHE'S JUST NOT ONE OF US... AND NEVER WILL BE!
I'VE HEARD QUITE ENOUGH NOW, THANK YOU! I'M TIRED OF FEELING SMALL AND WILL NO LONGER STAND FOR IT!
WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO PASS JUDGMENT ON ME WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME?!
I MIGHT NOT FIT IN HERE, OR EVEN BACK AT HOME, BUT AT LEAST I HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF KNOWING THAT I'M A GOOD PERSON AT HEART.
I LIKE PEOPLE. I TRUST PEOPLE. I RESPECT PEOPLE.
YOU KNOW, AS CRAZY AS THIS PLACE AND ALL YOU PEOPLE MAY BE, I THINK I ACTUALLY OWE YOU A DEBT OF GRATITUDE. AFTER ALL YOU'VE DONE, YOU'VE TAUGHT ME SOMETHING ABOUT MYSELF!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE I AM OR WHO I'M WITH...
...AS LONG AS I LIKE WHO I AM!

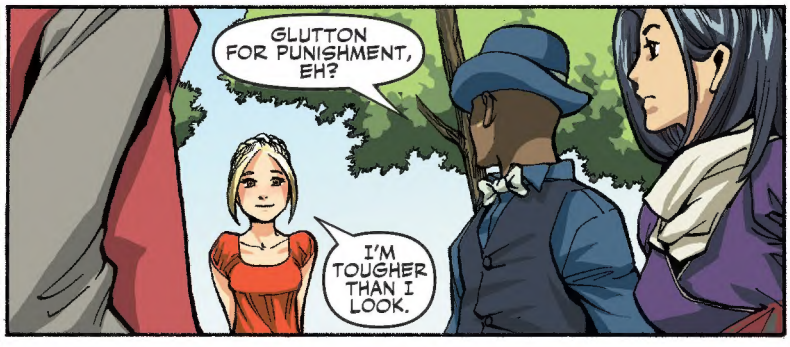

PLEASE DON'T HURT US! WE DIDN'T MEAN YOU ANY HARM!
WE ONCE FELT LIKE OUTSIDERS OURSELVES, WITH NO FRIENDS AND NO ONE WILLING TO TALK TO US.
ALL WE EVER REALLY WANTED WAS TO FEEL ACCEPTED, TO HAVE A CIRCLE OF FRIENDS.
WE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF OUR STATUS AND TRIED TO FORCE PEOPLE TO LIKE US!
HOWEVER, WE ONLY MANAGED TO PUSH EVERYONE AWAY. TO MAKE THEM HATE US.
SO WHEN YOU CAME ALONG, NEW TO THESE LANDS, WE THOUGHT WE COULD MAKE YOU OUR FRIEND.
YOU SURE HAVE A FUNNY WAY OF GOING ABOUT IT...
WE KNOW BETTER NOW.
WE SEE THE ERROR OF OUR WAYS.
CAN YOU PLEASE FORGIVE US?
WHAT DO YOU SAY, GUYS?
THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT TO PUT THE PAST BEHIND US.
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE MORE ROOM AT OUR TEA PARTY TABLE.
THE MORE THE MERRIER. THE MORE THE MERRIER.
I GUESS IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO CHANGE OUR WAYS...
I GUESS WE CAN ALL NOW FINALLY MOVE ON WITH OUR LIVES.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO BE ALONE ANY LONGER.

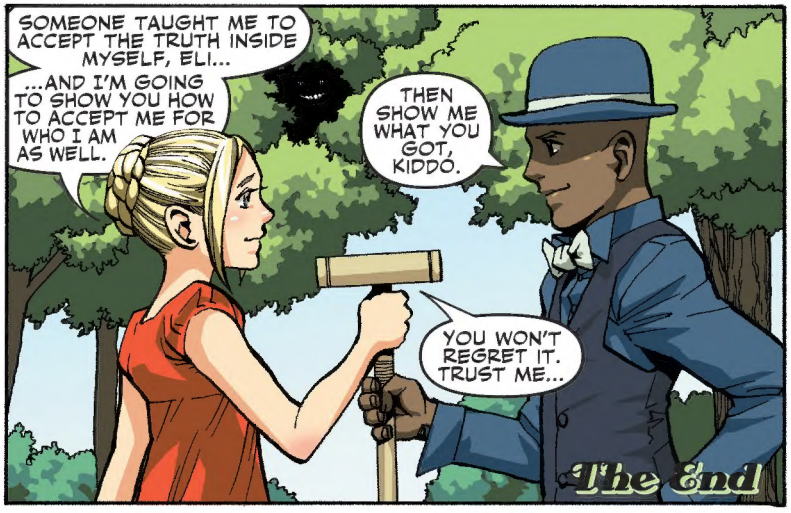



WHA--?! WHERE... WHERE AM I?
I'M BACK IN THE PARK! BACK HOME!!

I MUST HAVE DOZED OFF...
...BUT NOT FOR TOO LONG, BY THE LOOKS OF IT.

...IT'S TIME TO PUT THE PAST BEHIND ME AND START ANEW.


GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT, EH?
I'M TOUGHER THAN I LOOK.


SOMEONE TAUGHT ME TO ACCEPT THE TRUTH INSIDE MYSELF, ELI...
...AND I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU HOW TO ACCEPT ME FOR WHO I AM AS WELL.
THEN SHOW ME WHAT YOU GOT, KIDDO.
YOU WON'T REGRET IT. TRUST ME...
The End

Shadowcat